



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# SDDVA KICKS OFF OPERATION RAV

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) has designated 2014 as our year to reach out to all 75,000 South Dakota veterans. This week kicked off the outreach project – Operation RAV – Reaching All Veterans.

“Operation RAV is our campaign to identify and make direct contact with South Dakota’s veterans and to make them aware of the benefits and services available to them,” said SDDVA



Secretary Larry Zimmerman. “As the advocate for South Dakota’s veterans, our team is at the forefront of the most demanding challenges confronting our state’s veterans.”

“We are taking a proactive approach to enhance the lives of our veterans,” said Zimmerman. “We walk among veterans every day and

yet may not even realize the magnitude of their sacrifices to serve our country. We owe them so much.”

SDDVA and County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers will be hosting over 150 open houses and outreach events throughout the state. Service officers and SDDVA staff will address veterans’ questions about their benefits, including compensation, education, pensions, health care and death benefits.

SDDVA staff and CTVSOs will be manning a booth at the State Capitol during the 2014 legislative session.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard proclaimed Jan. 14, 2014, as Operation Reaching All Veterans (RAV) Day in South Dakota and was joined by SDDVA staff, legislators and leaders from the SD Association of County Commissioners and the SD Veterans Service Officers Association.



### Inside this issue:

Brig Gen. Johnson Retires	2
Heroes Among Us	3-4
New CVSOs	5
Valentines for Veterans Concert	5
New Twist on SDNG Training	6
Upcoming Events	7

Heroes Among Us—  
showcasing 125 South Dakota  
veterans.



## GUARD GENERAL RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO STATE, NATION

Army Brig. Gen. Ted Johnson, of Rapid City, retired last weekend after more than 35 years of military service to the state and nation. Johnson retired as the director of the joint staff for the South Dakota National Guard and held numerous key leadership positions throughout the years. Johnson was honored for his service during a retirement ceremony Jan. 11 at the Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid.

As director of the joint staff, Johnson, 60, served as the top coordinating staff officer of both the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard. He assisted in preparing the more than 4,300 members of the Army and Air National Guard, and more than 960 full-time federal and state employees, to respond in times of state emergencies or national defense.

Johnson helped direct the Guard through the largest call up of SDNG forces since World War II, where more than 7,200 soldiers and airmen deployed over the last decade in support of the Global War on Terror. His leadership, enforcement of standards and emphasis on readiness contributed to the successful mobilization of SDNG units and personnel during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Johnson's leadership and management of the joint staff and the employees of the SDNG ensured that units were properly manned, trained and equipped to go to war. He also impacted the long-term readiness and professionalism of the organization.

"General Johnson's high standards, superior intellect, professionalism and dedication to duty have directly contributed to the South Dakota National Guard being held in such high esteem for many years," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG. "His historical knowledge of the South Dakota National Guard is unparalleled by anyone in our great organization and he will be sorely missed."

Johnson, a native of Pipestone, Minn., began his long and distinguished career in April of 1972, where he enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard. He joined the SDNG in 1984 and received his commission as a second lieutenant from the South Dakota Military Academy's Officer Candidate School in 1985. In 1988, he was hired as a full-time federal technician. Johnson held numerous leadership and staff positions within SDNG units. He commanded both the 211th and 214th Engineer Companies, as well as the 82nd Civil Support Team, and served in the 842nd Engineer Company, 109th Engineer Battalion, 88th Troop Command and Joint Force Headquarters. He was appointed to the rank of brigadier general on Oct. 1, 2007. A notable highlight in Johnson's career was being the first and only general officer in the history of the SDNG to command a unit in combat; commanding the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from 2010 to 2011 in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Johnson also served in many full-time positions in the SDNG to include state public affairs officer, director of military support to civil authorities, director of human resources, deputy chief of staff of operations and joint chief of staff.

Some of Johnson's decorations and service medals include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal and the North Atlantic Treaty Organizational Medal.



## HEROES AMONG US

Durley K. Boyer was born September 17, 1929 in Belle Fourche, SD. His father and grandfather were also named Durley and so Durley was and still is known by Ken. The Navy however wanted and used his proper name. He was the youngest of three children and grew up on a ranch 20 miles south and four miles west of Buffalo, SD.

The Korean War was going on in 1951 and Ken joined the Navy on June 27<sup>th</sup>. As with all sailors in basic training there was the required swimming; you learned or didn't get out of basic. Ken had been a pretty good typist in high school and became a clerk-typist for the Navy while stationed in San Diego for 30 months and later on the aircraft carrier USS Princeton for 18 months.

There were some interesting experiences on the USS Princeton. Ken remembered the *Princeton* being converted from CVA to CVS-37 up in Washington State. This conversion was so they could chase or monitor submarine activity of the Russians between Yokosuka, Japan and Okinawa. Ken also remembered that their ship was involved with the evacuation of the Tachen Islands.

This was an important task of the Navy. Sources state that, "During February 1955 LST 1159 participated for seven days in the evacuation of the bulk of the 42,000 Chinese Nationalist soldiers, civilians and all of their supplies, ammunition, animals and personal goods from the Tachen Islands. LST 1159 was part of Task Force 702 which consisted of 50 ships, but this operation never made the news. There is little, if anything, in the history books about this operation either. Air and amphibious raids against the Tachens intensified during February, 1955. Task Force 702 was assigned to patrol the islands and to carry out the evacuation. When the civilians heard the communists were going to take over the islands they all wanted to also leave. The civilian evacuation was not just people. The civilians decided to bring their livestock and as much of their personal goods as they could carry. Loading up was OK but once the ships were underway in a seaway, the soldiers, civilians, and the animals got sick and created... a mess."



Navy food was considered good and "they had lobster tail every Friday." Ken's Navy experiences were good. Ken was discharged on June 14, 1955. He had received the China Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. He then worked in the missile silos out of Ellsworth AFB and later with Job Service in Belle Fourche. After becoming manager there, he was transferred as manager to Brookings, SD. He worked for Job Service in Brookings for 20 years and about three to four years at SDSU. Ken retired and he and his wife, Nora, came back to Buffalo in 1993. Ken is a Paid-Up-For-Life member of the American Legion where he has served as adjutant for the local Post, and is also a VFW member.

THANK YOU for your military service to the United States of America Ken!



## HEROES AMONG US

Two old green duffel bags, purchased at an Army surplus store several years ago, gathered dust on the shelf most of the year. Each fall one is pulled out for use on a hunting trip.

As my husband Darell was getting ready for his elk-hunting trip, he happened to notice "Lynn S Hawkins" and a number stamped on one. Why he had never looked at that name before is a mystery. We have known Lynn since we moved to Onida 27 years ago.

Darell asked Rondha Hiller if her dad's middle initial was S. It was. And she noted he was coming to visit for a few days.

When the duffel bag was delivered to Lynn, he saw his name and confirmed the military ID number. While examining the bag he commented about the hole that he had patched himself.

"I've wondered where that bag went," he said. He had it filled with his belongings when he was discharged from the Army in 1962. He still has the contents of the bag, but didn't remember if he had loaned it to someone or what had happened. It doesn't matter how it had become lost, now that he has it back.

"You don't know how much this means to me," he repeated.

As a 19-year-old recruit, he had the duffel bag packed and was ready to deport to Germany for the Berlin Crisis. He was relieved when it was called off and he spent the rest of his three-year, two-month tour of duty in Texas at a top secret base housing hydrogen bombs.

Returning to his hometown of DeSmet, he learned the carpentry and cabinet-building trade and married Lois, who died shortly after their second son was born. Later, he married Karmen, who had three children of her own. The family purchased Pike Haven Resort in West Sully in 1972, selling it 11 years later. He farmed and did carpentry work for a few years. Karmen died in a car accident in 1987. Lynn went to work at Black Hills State University in 1989, retiring 10 years later.

Lynn and his wife Val live in the country north of Sturgis where he keeps busy building frames for Ben Franklin Crafts, plus clocks and furniture. He also collects unusual barbwire. He continues to enjoy fishing and hunting whenever he can, especially with his children.

Clutching the old duffel bag, Lynn said, "This means a lot." It brings back old memories.

Thanks Lynn for your service to this great country!!!!!! (information obtained from the Onida Watchman)



## NEW VSO'S

Lake County Commissioners have selected Douglas Huntrods as their new County Veterans Service Officer.

Douglas has over 21 years of military services and will be a great asset to the veterans in Lake County.

Doug's office hours are 8-5 Monday– Friday and his email address is: lakeema@lakecountysd.com



Douglas Huntrods



MICHAEL MCDONALD

Yankton County Commissioners have selected Michael McDonald at their new County Veterans Service Officer. Michael is a Navy Veteran.

Michael's email address is: michael@co.yankton.sd.us.

## VALENTINES FOR VETERANS CONCERT

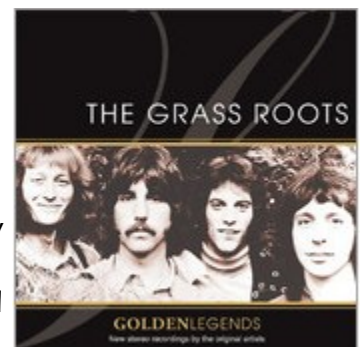
The Sioux Falls Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that the Grass Roots rock band will star in the second annual Valentines for Veterans concert Saturday, February 15, 2014, at 3:00 pm at the Washington Pavilion.

Tickets are required, and veterans should call VA Voluntary Services at 605-333-6851 or 605-333-6806 beginning January 21 to reserve their complimentary tickets. Each veteran may receive up to four tickets. The band will pay tribute to veterans, who paid for this concert with their service and sacrifices.

The Grass Roots originated in mid-1965 and has been active since. They have had two gold albums, one gold single, and had singles charted a total of 21 times. They have sold over twenty million records nationwide and are known for hits such as "Let's Live for Today," "Feelings," "Midnight Confessions," "Temptation Eyes, and "Two Divided by Love."

Area businesses, Veterans Service Organizations, and individuals are making the concert possible with their generous donations.

Veterans can also learn more about VA services during a Veterans benefits fair, which will take place prior to the concert from 1:00-3:00 PM at the Pavilion at 301 S. Main Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD.



**VA**lentines  
FOR VETERANS CONCERT

## 82ND CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM PUTS A NEW TWIST ON TRAINING

The South Dakota National Guard's 82nd Civil Support Team put a new twist on a training exercise Jan. 8 at Ellsworth Air Force Base, when instead of responding to a chemical, biological, radiation or nuclear threat, the team used their skills to help determine the cause of death of a local airman.

The 82nd CST partnered with personnel from Ellsworth and the South Dakota State Public Health Laboratory to conduct the exercise. In the training scenario, Ellsworth security forces discovered the body of the deceased airman in a remote building on base, along with an unknown powder substance. The security team called for the assistance of the 82nd in the event the base Emergency Management Flight is not available.

The 82nd CST's primary purpose is to advise and assist military or civilian authorities on how to handle intentional or unintentional releases of natural or man-made substances. While members of the 82nd are used to identify and handle unknown substances, this training scenario was quite different for them.

"This exercise was a little different than what we usually do," said Sgt. 1st. Class Kerry Slaba, medical noncommissioned officer. "We were informed that the victim had ordered a diet supplement online and had been using it for the past week or so. We also heard the victim complained about having a metallic taste in his mouth and felt like he was coming down with the flu."

From the information given to the team, they suspected the victim died from heavy metal poisoning, or arsenic, which can be found in diet supplements.

"Research has found that some of the newer natural supplements do have traces of arsenic," said Slaba. "So prolonged use could possibly build up in a person's system and cause arsenic poisoning. A lot of the supplements are not monitored by the FDA at this time. People make up the mixture and sell it online, you never know what you are going to get."

Since the CST is not able to detect arsenic with their equipment, they needed to look for possible clues of what may have caused the Airman's death and withdraw fluids from his body.

For this particular scenario, Slaba, the unit's medical NCO, did not stay back in the CST's laboratory. Slaba geared up in a level-A suit with a two-man survey team and went into the building to gather samples. Slaba is not used to wearing the level-A suit, a impermeable whole-body garment, worn as protection against hazardous materials, to include a self-contained breathing apparatus weighing nearly 40 pounds. The team gathered enough material to split the sample in half, to test in their own lab and enough to send to the South Dakota State Public Health Laboratory to confirm their results. Another reason this mission is different than the CST's typical training exercise is the involvement of the courier system provided by the state lab, located in Pierre.

"This is the first time the CST utilized the courier system, giving them the opportunity to learn the process of coordinating a courier and seeing how long it takes to get a sample to our lab," said Mike Smith, director of the state lab. "The purpose of the courier system is to get the samples to us in a timely manner from all four corners of the state." Smith looks forward to working with the SDNG because of the unique learning opportunities. "We learn so much from the experiences we have with the Guard," said Smith. "This was a great exercise for us because it is the first time the CST sent us something we don't normally see. We tend to get samples of substances we know how to handle, such as anthrax. Working with an inorganic metal required us to think about the process or brainstorm ideas of how are we going to handle this in a real-world sample."





# Upcoming Events

## 2014

Jan. 18- 129<sup>th</sup> MPAD Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Rapid City  
 Jan. 24-26—American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Crossroads—Huron  
 Jan. 25-26- 235<sup>th</sup> MP Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Chamberlain Cedar Shore Resort  
 Jan. 31—SD Veterans Council Breakfast with Legislators—6:30 am  
 Feb 2-4—VFW Legislative Conference—Post 2038—Pierre  
 Feb. 6—American Legion Legislative Reception—Post 8—Pierre  
 Feb. 15—Veterans Benefits Fair—Washington Pavilion—Sioux Falls—1:00 pm  
 Feb. 15—Valentines for Veterans Concert—Washington Pavilion—Sioux Falls—3:00 pm  
 Feb 15-16- 152<sup>nd</sup> Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Sioux Falls  
 Feb. 18-19—SDDVA New VSO Orientation—Sioux Falls  
 Apr. 5-6—152nd Yellow Ribbon  
 Apr. 7—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am  
 May 2-4—DAV Conference—Ramkota Hotel—Aberdeen  
 Jun. 19-22—American Legion Conference—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
 Jul. 7—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am  
 Aug. 6—DOL Veterans Job Fair—Augustana College Elmen Center—10:00 am—2:00 pm  
 Aug. 25-29—NACVSO Training Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
 Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am



**BLACK HILLS  
NATIONAL CEMETERY  
UNACCOMPANIED VETERANS  
MEMORIAL SERVICE  
9:00 AM**

January 6, 2014  
 April 7, 2014  
 July 7, 2014  
 October 6, 2014

JOIN US AS WE CONDUCT MILITARY HONORS FOR  
 VETERANS ALREADY LAID TO REST WITHOUT HONORS  
 Questions? Call (605) 347-3830 or (800) 743-1070 ext. 7299



Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer  
 South Dakota Department of the Military <http://mva.sd.gov>  
 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>  
 Soldiers and Sailors Building  
 425 E Capitol Avenue  
 Pierre, SD 57501  
 Phone: 605-773-8242  
 E-mail address: [audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us)

